

Nabil Hanna-U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/986,174

II. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of enhancing apoptosis of a target cell by administering a therapeutically effective amount of an immunoconjugate to a subject, wherein said immunoconjugate comprises an anti-CD20 antibody or an immunogenic fragment thereof that binds to CD20 expressed by a target cell that is to be eradicated, wherein said anti-CD20 antibody or immunogenic fragment thereof possesses human effector function, and further wherein said anti-CD20 antibody or immunogenic fragment thereof is fused at its carboxy terminus to interferon- α -2a (IFN- α -2a) that binds a receptor expressed on the surface of an effector cell.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the target cell is a B cell lymphoma cell.

18-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the effector cell is a cell which expresses an IFN- α -2a receptor selected from the groups consisting of natural killer (NK) cells, lymphocyte-activated killer (LAK) cells, macrophages, monocytes, and polymorphonuclear (PMN) cells.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said immunoconjugate facilitates extracellular (ADCC-type) and/or intracellular (phagocytic) killing of target cell.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said immunoconjugate comprises an anti-CD20 antibody or an immunogenic fragment thereof selected from the group consisting of ~~Rituximab~~ rituximab (RITUXAN[®]), 1F5, ~~Ibritumomab~~ ibritumomab (ZEVALIN[®]), 1H4, and anti-B1 (BEXXAR[®]) antibody.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the immunogenic fragment is selected from the group consisting of a single variable region of the anti-CD20 antibody VL or VH, two or more variable regions, domain deleted antibody and minibodies, Fab, Fab1, Fab2, SFV, and single chain antibodies.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the anti-CD20 antibody or immunogenic fragment is a humanized or chimeric antibody.